DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, MYSORE STATE.

Circular No. 9.

CAMBODIA COTTON SEED DISTRIBUTION, 1913.

Part of the work of the Department of Agriculture in the direction of the improvement of cotton in the State consisted during the past year in the introduction in the cotton districts of the cultivation of Cambodia cotton. This variety though very similar to the local Doddahatti or Dharwar American which is grown at present on a fairly large scale in the Chitaldrug and Shimoga Districts is still a much more paying variety in as much as it yields a higher percentage of lint, *viz.*, 36% as against 30% of the Doddahatti. A somewhat extended trial was therefore given to the cultivation of this crop during the past year with a view to testing its suitability in our cotton tracts.

But Cambodia cotton has several other advantageous features to which I should like to draw attention in this circular. Firstly it is a crop well suited to localities where a large supply of irrigation water may not be available; secondly its cultivation involves very little cost; and thirdly a yield of about 30 maunds of seed cotton may be expected which at present price will amount to over 100 rupees per acre; this however is a moderate estimate of the yield, as yields as high as 80 maunds have been reported.

Under these circumstances it will be a great advantage if the cultivation of this crop should be extended in the State. All enterprising ryots and the members of the various District and Taluk Agricultural Associations in particular will be undertaking a very profitable line of work if they should grow this crop on small trial areas with a view to extending its cultivation later on, if the crop is found to thrive under the conditions of their different localities.

The Department has laid in a stock of 5,000 lbs. of Cambodia cotton seed and can supply the seed at cost price, *viz.*, at Rs. 1-8-0 a maund. Arrangements are also being made to send out Agricultural Inspectors to instruct growers at sowing time and later on to inspect the crops.

The following instructions may prove of use in the meantime:—

The crop can be grown on all well drained loams where facilities for irrigation exist.

After the land is got ready in the usual way the seeds are sown at the rate of about 7 lbs. an acre in furrows about 3 feet apart. As regards the time for sowing, the results of the past year indicate that it will be better to sow the crop somewhat later in the season that is in the months of September and October.

The space between the rows must be kept clean and well stirred by repeated intertilling. The crop should be irrigated once or twice during the season according to the condition of the crop. The cotton should be picked as the boll become ready (which will be in five months from the time of planting) but should not be left on the plants until the whole crop is ready; otherwise the cotton may easily be blown down to the ground and become stained.

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Director of Agriculture.